

# FULTON COUNTY TRIBUNE

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## SCHOOL TEACHING IN THE SIXTIES

Seven Dollars a Month and Board. Joys of "Boarding Round" With Reminiscences of School Teaching in Fulton County

By Roxie Handy Rice

I well remember, some of my first experiences, as a "Country School" teacher, and although I filled that honored position for many years, the memory of the first two terms will never grow dim.

My first exasperating experience occurred, when I was compelled to face a board of school examiners, in order to prove an intellectual claim to a license to teach school. I doubt if ever a soldier, going into his first battle, approached the ordeal with feelings of greater fear and trembling.

In those early days, no certificate for over six months time, was granted to an applicant, taking the first county examination; if, at the expiration of that time, the applicant could show a guarantee of having made good she would, upon a second appearance, receive one, granting her permission to teach for a term of twelve to twenty-four months.

Having secured the certificate, the next thing was getting a school; that was not always proving a cynosure, even though many a school was secured, making the game of "school hunting," quite interesting at least.

I remember, driving ten miles to apply for a school, where, I previously had been informed, they were looking for a teacher. My heart swelling with pride, I walked up to one of the Directors, who was busily hoeing in his garden. That man's name was "WILLIAMS." After listening to me as I made known my business, he turned toward me, resting both hands upon the hoe-handle, looked me over from head to foot, then, having arrived at his own satisfactory conclusion, expressed himself, as follows:

"You talk about teaching school? You want to be a teacher? Better go back home, and wash your mother's dishes, and weed the onion beds; yer don't look's though yer knowed enough to teach piggies."

While hesitating to get out of the yard, I glanced back, and saw him still resting upon the hoe-handle, and as I still for the first time noticed the inhuman look about his entire appearance, and realized the heartlessness in which he had clothed his remarks to me, this thought came to me:

"I just wonder now, what special qualifications are required, to enable one to teach PIGS?"

Although my first application for a school, had not received very flattering encouragement, I felt that I had at least brought its reward, as I succeeded in securing a school in one of the wealthiest farming districts in the county, then known as "Harrison school." I felt that I had done something for the school and neighborhood, most congenial. It was my good fortune to teach both the Spring and Summer terms—five months, for which I received the sum of THIRTY FIVE DOLLARS. That, being the first money I had ever earned, I felt myself well qualified to influence.

In order to earn that Seven Dollars per month, the teacher must bind herself, in written contract, to teach twenty-two days in each month, be a "boarding round" teacher, and, at nine o'clock, teach until twelve, take one hour nooning, beginning promptly at one o'clock, continuing until four p. m. We went to the school, and I was expected to live up to the letter of the contract, as, in every community, would be found a self-appointed monitor, upon the lookout, to see that the teacher, "Miss So-and-So, didn't teach her hours; hence, it behooved the incoming teacher, to "watch out."

The following term, I engaged to teach a winter term in a certain District near Ottosville, then my home town. It being a winter term, and a large school numbering fifty and sixty scholars, I was to receive, from five years, to twenty-one, I was paid the minimum sum of Three Dollars a week with board; "board" was then known as "boarding round." In spending one or more weeks (according to the number of children from one home attending school).

Out of her wages, the teacher was expected to hire a boy to build the fire; should the teacher be economically inclined, she would build the fire herself, thereby, saving twenty-five cents a week; the writer has a clear recollection of stripping the slivers from many a rail fence, in old Fulton county, for the purpose of using them for kindling-wood.

As the majority of scholars, lived one and one half, to two miles distant from the school house, it required no little nerve to start out between seven and eight o'clock in the morning, wade through huge snow drifts, with the thermometer hovering around, (and often below) the zero mark. Upon arriving at the school house, enter an extremely cold room, and with half frozen fingers, attempt to build a fire, while perhaps a dozen or more little "buddies" would stand shivering around, crying with cold; and oh, how often the fire would fail to burn, but just smolder in the stove, filling the room with smoke, after which, should it decide to blaze forth every window must be opened, in order that the smoke might escape, while standing, four and five deep around the stove were scholars of every size, crowding one another, anxious to get nearer the warmth, at the same time, endeavoring to heat from escaping the distant parts of the room.

O you children, of the present generation, with your steam-heated, ventilated school-rooms, you little realize the wonderful blessings you enjoy, in comparison with what your forefathers had to contend, in order to achieve that education, and yet those early days of struggle for knowledge, brought forth a Lincoln, a Grant and thousand of illustrious men, whose names will live forever in history.

One of the aggravating experiences, with which the teacher had to contend, was in the arranging of various classes; and they were various, in every sense of the term. Graded schools, in rural districts, were at that time unknown; besides, there were no set lines of books, in vogue; therefore, the teacher was obliged to arrange classes to fit the books. In many instances, I have known one book to serve two or three in a family. Then classes must be formed in accordance to the age of the pupils; usually from

### HE KNEW HOW.

There was an old geezer and he had a lot of sense; He started up a business on a dollar-eighty-cent; The dollar for stock and the eighty for an ad. Brought him three lovely dollars in a day, by dad! He bought more goods and a little more space And he played that system with a smile on his face. The customers flocked to his two-by-four And soon he had to hustle for a regular store.

Up on the square, where the people pass, He gobbled up a corner that was all plate glass. He fixed up the windows with the best that he had And he told 'em all about it in a half-page ad. He soon had 'em coming and he never, never quit And he wouldn't cut down on his ad one bit. Well, he's kept things humming in the town ever since And everybody calls him the Merchant Prince.

Some say it's luck, but that's all bunk— Why, he was doing business when the people were puny. People have to purchase and the geezer was wise— For he knew just what to get 'em was to advertise.

### BASE BALL

Wauseon Defeats the Strong Sem- Professional Team From Defiance on Home Field by a Score of 10 to 4—Score by Innings—Fair Crowd—Cold Weather.

In a game replete with fast fielding and opportune hitting, our boys had no trouble taking the first game from the fast Defiance team—threatening rain and cool weather kept the attendance down, but at that a fair sized crowd came out. Those who stayed away missed a treat. Wauseon has a fast team this year. Everybody turn out and give the boys a send off; it costs money to run a good ball club and we need your support. This is the way Wauseon got theirs:

1st Inning. Funkhouser flied to second, Reed singled to center and stole, What-

2nd Inning. Zimmerman lined to second, Chase

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### GOING DEEPER INTO LIFE

The Capacity of the Human Soul—The Bible Evokes Man to a Unique Realm—History Proves the Virtue of What Jesus Taught—The Purpose of the Gospel—A Quotation From a Modern Novel—The Way to God.

W. T. Williams.

The capacity of the human soul is very large as well as very wonderful. So far as we know it is the largest and most wonderful of all created things. Whatever we might think or say, we cannot but marvel at the scope of our creation. It is so great that from our point of view it is immeasurable, and when the poet of old asked, "What is man, that Thou art mindful of him? And the son of man that Thou visitest him?" we feel instantly that we have been brought to face something immense. In the presence of such a question we realize that the poet had in mind something marvellously grand! It is beyond compare! "Thou hast made him but little lower than God, and crowned him with glory and honor. Thou makest him to have dominion over the works of Thy hands; thou hast put all things under his feet: All sheep and oxen, Yes, and the beasts of the field, the birds of the heaven, and the fish of the sea, Whatsoever passeth through the paths of the sea." Confronting this estimation of man's place in the world, who can doubt his value in the sight of his Maker? Is it not this that gives him his real worth as the image of God? At any rate, it is very evident that he has been brought into being for a purpose which is in accord with the designs of the Almighty. In some way he has been placed over the creation, even though he remains a part of it.

By this man is elevated to a unique realm. He is part of the creation, but he has been appointed to be over all created things. Everything has been made in subjection to him, and sadly marred though he is, this possible dignity holds a prominent position in the Bible. It raises man to a point from which he might be seen as he is. No other book is so generous as the Bible. Jesus came to seek and save the lost. His present condition might be low, but it can be changed. The present and the future are at his command. He need not despair because there is One who is always ready to re-enforce his good intentions. There is One who is closer to him than himself, the very source of his life. This is reiterated over and over in the Bible, and in comparison with the worth of man, all other things sink out of sight. They become less than worthless. That which is

esteemed by the worldly mind—honor, wealth, and even wisdom—are not in his class at all. They are always secondary. He has something to acquire and develop which is infinitely more precious than these. The Magazine made known the supreme good, and everything must be tested by its relation to it. Then, the Bible, of all books, is our greatest friend. In it we find the only correct estimation of our capacity—the possibilities of our souls. We may become the friends of God, and that in the utmost freedom, without cognition of any degree. In the fullness of our stature we may rise and go to our Father, who is always ready to receive us. He is always present with us, and He will forgive rather than condemn.

History proves the virtue of what Jesus taught. Of this we are sure. There are results which cannot be denied. The tree of Christianity has brought forth fruit in every age. Our eyes have seen them and our hearts have felt them. The Man of Nazareth labored in the souls of a few men, the idea of friendship. He was successful in helping them to see the supreme worth of a human being. Then, was judiciously impressed with what he could be. He was raised to a place where they could see him in relation to his God. The oppressed men the degraded and the poor had the same intrinsic value to the Father as the rich and the great and the good. Paul said that he was a debtor to all because he had the good news that might be theirs. No class was left out. This is the conviction of all who have felt the love of God in their hearts. They take thought for the children of men everywhere and in all conditions, and in the words of Shailer Mathews, "It has ended much of the cruelties of the heathen world; it has taught men to be kind to the unfortunate; to build hospitals and homes; it helped to abolish slavery; it carried its own blessings across the seas to Africa and Asia. The Church has not been perfect, but it has always been better than its times, and in nothing more than in this recognition of the worth of a human soul in terms of a possible likeness to God."

The seed of friendship which was planted in the souls of those few men that followed Jesus in the days of His flesh has shown its force ever since. The gospel of the worth of man has had fruit in abundance, and we are yet far from end. Social regeneration will follow of necessity as we become friends, and no power is so able to accomplish this as Jesus the Nazarene. Christian civilization, it has taught men to be kind to the unfortunate; to build hospitals and homes; it helped to abolish slavery; it carried its own blessings across the seas to Africa and Asia. The Church has not been perfect, but it has always been better than its times, and in nothing more than in this recognition of the worth of a human soul in terms of a possible likeness to God."

This is undoubtedly the purpose of the gospel, for if it is not, its estimation of man is entirely too high. It cannot be justified unless the good news is equal to the task it has undertaken to perform. We are in need of having the proper direction point-

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### DECORATION DAY

Committee Appointed to Decorate Soldier's Graves May 31st—Memorial Service at U. B. Church May 23rd by Pastor Rev. J. H. Williams.

Decoration Day exercises will be held this year on Monday May 31st. Commander Allen Shadle of Lousure Post No. 35 G. A. R. has appointed the following committee to act on that day at the various cemeteries which come under the charge of this Post: Theodore Vene Stevens, M. Edgredge, A. Rodgers, Archibald Vene Walters, E. E. Hallett, John Hoffmire, Pettitville: T. R. Robinson, W. H. Fullerton, E. Canfield, West Barre and Zion: Ed. Williams, Jacob Shinsberger, E. Green, J. Shambarger, Burlington: E. L. Donovan, Bert Barber, Bayes: Campbell Bayes, Mikesell: A. Mikesell, Ottosville: Daniel Brown, Harvey Shadle, S. I. Spring, Lena: Jacob Shambarger, Wauseon: H. T. Brigham, Simeon Boyer, E. Mikesell, Fulhart: Jake Garman, Reas McClarren, Kline: J. Hoffmann.

The memorial services will be held in the U. B. church on Sunday May 23rd, at 2:30 p. m.; the pastor of this church, Rev. J. H. Williams will deliver the sermon. The Women's Relief Corps and members of the Lousure Post G. A. R. will meet at the Post Hall at 2:15 p. m. and march in a body to the church. Every one is cordially invited to attend these services. The Decoration Day exercises in Wauseon will be held in the morning at the cemetery and in the afternoon in the High School Assembly room; the program for both morning and afternoon exercises is of exceeding interest, it will be as outlined in last week's Tribune and will appear in its completed form in a later edition of this paper. Hon. Chas. T. Stahl will deliver the address in the afternoon.

OTTOKEE GRANGE. Program for May 21st, 1915, evening meeting:

Music. Reading. Mrs. W. C. Borton Gardening Helps. Mrs. H. Gasche Lessons from the European War. Do we Spend Decoration Day as Befitting Patriots. E. P. Ames Music. Recitation. Marie Trudel Topic—What Dependence Can be Put in "Moon Sign" Farming. Discussion led by W. Fieldmire What do we Learn From the Boys Corn Contests? H. H. Gasche Music.

### LECTURER.

Do not read this. If you do you will have to come in and see our Bolo eyes.

SCHLATTER & HOWARDS.

For burns apply Hamford's Balsam lightly. It will take the fire out.

### BACKYARDS.

The writer wishes to say at the very outset of this article that he has not set himself to write an exhaustive treatise on this subject, not even in so far as it may apply to our own village; but merely to direct attention to a topic of interest and mayhap furnish a new item to talk about when your neighbors goings, comings, doings, children, chickens, dogs and cats have become worn out subjects of conversation.

Of course most people are careful to keep their front yards nice and neat even attractive for they are always in sight and most people are desirous of making a good impression; but backyards, that is another matter, in fact it is a private matter, the general public are not supposed to go about snooping into other people's backyards, its none of their business any way, they don't have to look at it and they better take care of their own backyards before they start out prying and peering into other peoples.

Our own backyards may be convenient places for us to keep reservations of old cans, broken china and glassware, ashes and rubbish and weeds and other things that have grown dear to us because they have been so long in the family; whether or not they are of use to us in our own business and the question as to whether we would be better off without such things, well, that's some moot question. If we want to try it, of course, not failing to mention locations and names! If it doesn't bring lively results, we miss our guess.

The preceding remarks are just given in to demonstrate what a nice juicy topic for neighborhood gossip and squabbles Backyards are any way. Why, there are marvelous possibilities for the newspaper men in backyards! Properly developed and written up they would furnish inches upon inches of "live" news, if they don't think it is "live" just let them try it, of course, not failing to mention locations and names! If it doesn't bring lively results, we miss our guess.

After all it's just as human to talk about your neighbor's backyard as it is to talk about his character or his ancestry!

What we really want to tell, is that we have been around peering in to backyards here in Wauseon and we have found some that are certainly good to look at; one of these is located in the rear of W. C. Flin's residence on South Fulton street. A pergola with grape vines trained over it leads to a cosy summer house; cement walks lead in geometrical patterns, well kept lawns, flowers beds in the spaces formed by the walks and a neat little vegetable garden as a back ground; the whole makes a contrast with the green of the velvet grass as the features that make the place attractive to the outsider. Of course the shiny new summer house is a feature, but not now than the pergola which is so carefully prepared to hold it or the lawn which has to be mowed.

Another attractive backyard, perhaps we should say side lawn, is that of John Hest, North Fulton street, where a well kept lawn and a neat little garage, painted in colors that harmonize with the same time that there is a contrast with the green of the velvet grass as the features that make the place attractive to the outsider. Of course the shiny new summer house is a feature, but not now than the pergola which is so carefully prepared to hold it or the lawn which has to be mowed.

The indications now are that this movement which has been before the people for the past three years almost, cannot be held back, and the conclusion this year; the trustees are hoping that the end may come as early as July 4th.

Suprise Party. A number of friends gathered at the home of Miss Marie Garbath, May 8th, to celebrate the eighteenth birthday anniversary. Those present were the Misses Hattie and Louise Gotschalt, Grace Lillich, Vera Foster, Augusta Duran, Louise Funk, Francis Bressler, Grace Duran, Mary Ferguson, Mary Funk, Edna Snyder, May Ward and Anna and Marie Garbath and the Messrs. Gail Dennis, Carl Lillich, Will Duran, Glen Frankfurter, Floyd Snyder, George Durant, Quintis Hull, Leo Lindley, Selbert Oden, Homer Wagner, Fred Duran, Walter Peters, Grant Fouty and Lawrence Keough. The evening was spent in playing games and at twelve o'clock light refreshments were served and many happy birthday wishes were given.

Weather Forecast. Issued by U. S. Weather Bureau, Washington, D. C. For the week beginning Wednesday May 12.

For Region of the Great Lakes: Showers Wednesday will be followed by generally fair weather during the remainder of the week without temperature change of consequence. For Region of Ohio Valley and Tennessee: The weather will be unsettled Wednesday, with the western portion probably without rain of much consequence; and generally fair weather is indicated during the week with seasonable temperatures.

The best garden hose that you can buy in town at Schlatter & Howards.

This Firm Can Supply You With All Your Summer Outfittings and Apparel. A Sure Guide and Ready Reference in Fashion's Latest Edicts.

## Wash Goods Display Week

For this week we have assembled a large and tasty variety of Wash Goods and White Fabrics to meet this Important Selling Event.

To make those never forgotten Graduation Dresses for the "Miss" so all fortunate, we have the goods.

### May Embroidery Sale

Oriental and Shadow Lace Flouncings, Swiss, Organdie Voile and Lace Cloth Embroidery Flouncings

18 to 45 inches  
25c to \$2.00

These Flouncings and Embroidery are high-grade fine sheer qualities and exclusive designs; assuring you most pleasing and perfect satisfaction.

### Suits and Jackets

Offering Our Entire Stock of Spring Apparel at Decisive Price Concessions.

Ladies and Misses contemplating where to secure the Biggest Values for the money, need now not to hesitate.

This Occasion Presents The Very Opportunity

## Millinery Department

(Second Floor)

Smart bow and wing trimmed hats. In fact you will be able to secure, just what you want in this section because the styles represented are the most popular with corresponding and all pleasing prices.

## Spencer-Edgar-Vollmer Co.

WAUSEON'S EXCLUSIVE DRY GOODS STORE

THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT SUPERVISES THIS BANK

### Twelve Regional Banks

Under our former banking system in this country, the inevitable flow of country bank deposits was toward the large city banks of New York.

This often resulted in a money drain on inland sections at a time when business had need for it. The new Federal Reserve Bank will change this peculiar system.

The United States is now divided into twelve districts, each served by a Regional Bank. This insures credits and currency issues in ration with business conditions in each district. The requirements for each district are now set. Country bank deposits will thus remain near home. We are a Member of the Regional Bank of this District.

### First National Bank

"The Safety First Bank" Wauseon, Ohio